

THANK YOU

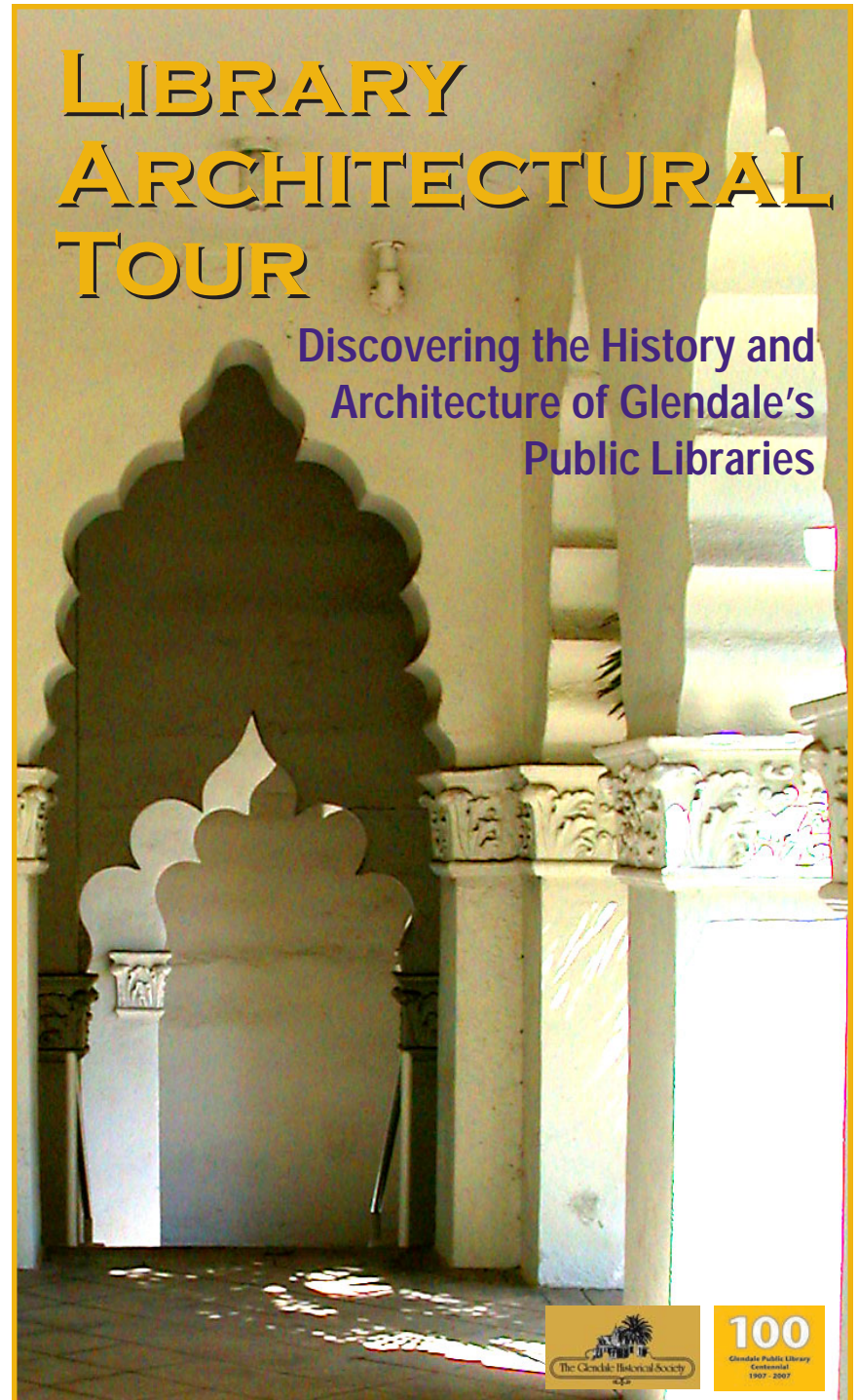
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PHOTOS

Special Collections
Glendale Central Library

Glendale Public Library
www.library.ci.glendale.ca.us

The Glendale Historical Society
www.glendalehistorical.org



Dear Friends,

The Glendale Public Library is thrilled to be partnering with The Glendale Historical Society on this, the first-ever architectural tour of our library facilities. It is an exciting way to celebrate the Library's centennial.

Our library buildings reflect the various stylistic eras since the establishment of public library services in Glendale in 1907. From the oldest—the Moorish-influenced El Miradero at Brand Library & Art Center—to the newest—the innovative mixed-use complex of Pacific Park—the libraries of our City are architectural gems that chronicle our city's growth and development. This impressive collection will be further enhanced with the completion early next year of our newest branch in the restored Art Deco Adams Square Building.

We invite you to join us as we share the story of these great public spaces. A special “thank you” to The Glendale Historical Society for their hard work and dedication to making this program a success!

Nancy Hunt-Coffey

Director

Glendale Public Library

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The Glendale Historical Society is extremely proud to be co-hosting, with our friends at the Glendale Public Library, this architectural tour celebrating the centennial of public library services in Glendale.

Our city's library system has grown by leaps and bounds since its inception in 1907 and we have unfortunately lost many of its buildings. But today we showcase three architecturally distinct library buildings which beautifully illustrate the library's development in its first one hundred years, from the eclecticism of the late Victorian era, to the linear simplicity of Mid-Century Modern to the angular geometry of late-20th century Brutalism.

This diverse architectural heritage and illustrious history are true treasures of the Jewel City.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Members of The Glendale Historical Society, I offer my congratulations to the Glendale Public Library on its Centennial as we look forward to its next one hundred years.

Arlene Vidor

President

The Glendale Historical Society



Central 1973



Original Central 1926



Grandview 1964



Pacific Park 2004

INTERIORS FROM THE PAST . . .



Brand Drawing Room c 1904



Montrose 1987

THERE'S MORE . . .

The following libraries are not included on the tour, nor will we drive by them. However, each has a style separate from the other and reflects its time of construction.

We urge you to visit each one with the caveat that the Adams Square Library is still being transformed from an empty building into one which will serve the neighborhood.



CHEVY CHASE LIBRARY
3301 CHEVY CHASE DRIVE
1972



MONTROSE-CRESCENTA
2465 HONOLULU AVENUE
MONTROSE
1953



LIBRARY CONNECTION @ ADAMS SQUARE
1100 EAST CHEVY CHASE DRIVE
in progress

THE GLENDALE PUBLIC LIBRARY: ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF SERVICE

LIBRARY SERVICES in Glendale were first provided in 1906, the year the City was incorporated, when the Tuesday Afternoon Club, a ladies' social and philanthropic organization, raised the funds for a library collection of seventy books. The library opened in a renovated pool room at the corner of what are now Wilson and Everett Streets. The following year it became a public institution when the City Trustees passed Ordinance 53, which established and supported a library "forever free to the inhabitants and non-resident taxpayers of the City of Glendale."

In 1913 a \$12,500.00 grant from the Carnegie Foundation financed the construction of a new library building at what are now Kenwood and Harvard Streets. The Beaux Arts-style building was dedicated on November 13,

1914. In 1926, to meet the needs of the growing city, the building was enlarged to twice its original size, and the first branch library was opened in the Casa Verdugo neighborhood. Additional branches followed in the ensuing years, and the main library was expanded again in the 1940s with the addition of the Hans Christian Andersen Room for children and the Readers' Services wing. The old library was demolished after the completion of the present Central Library in 1973.

Today the Glendale Public Library lends over one million items a year from its collections of 700,000 books, 25,000 music CDs and 14,000 movies. And, with the City's newest branch library currently under construction in Adams Square, the Library continues to expand and grow to meet the changing needs of the community.

**The
GLENDALE
PUBLIC
LIBRARY
—
still
the place to
go
when
you want to
know.**



◆ **CENTRAL LIBRARY**
222 EAST HARVARD STREET
1973

The Central Library is the hub of the Glendale Public Library system. As well as a traditional lending library, it provides informational and recreational services such as author lectures and book signings, book discussion groups and computer workshops. The Special Collections room houses valuable photographs and documents that chronicle the history of Glendale.

Completed in 1973, the building was designed by the prominent Los Angeles architectural firm of Welton Becket Associates. One of the most important American practitioners of the New Formalist style of Modernism in the 1950s and 1960s, Becket's firm designed many of the most famous and iconic buildings in Los Angeles, including the Music Center, the Capitol Records building and the Cinerama Dome.

The Central Library showcases the firm's shift away from New Formalism after Becket's death in 1969. With its exposed concrete structure, blocky massing and angular geometry, the Library is an excellent example of Brutalism, a late development of Modernism inspired by the last works of the Swiss architect Le Corbusier and influenced by the formal, geometric designs of the brilliant American architect Louis I. Kahn.

PHOTOS: Top 1973,
 Bottom original library 1914



◆ **CASA VERDUGO LIBRARY**
1151 NORTH BRAND BOULEVARD
1951

The original Casa Verdugo branch opened in 1926 on Central Avenue. The present structure, along with the adjacent fire station, was built in 1951. The architect, Adrian Wilson, later collaborated on several major civic projects in downtown Los Angeles, including the County Courthouse and the Hall of Administration.

The Library is a good example of the understated, slightly formal Modernism frequently employed in civic structures of the 1950s and 60s. The two-tiered massing expresses the building's simple interior layout: on the north, a low entrance lobby approached by two charming entrance atria—one from the street and one from the rear parking lot; and to the south a tall, spacious reading room flooded with natural light from clerestories and a huge picture window overlooking Brand Boulevard.

Due to the necessary expansion of Fire Station 26, the Casa Verdugo branch library is slated for replacement in the near future.

PHOTOS
 Opposite page: Top postcard circa 1978
 Bottom El Miradero circa 1915
 This page: First column 1951
 Second column 2003



◆ **PACIFIC PARK LIBRARY**
501 SOUTH PACIFIC AVENUE
2003

Pacific Park Branch Library is part of an innovative joint use, multi-functional project between the Library Department, the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department and the Glendale Unified School District.

The project, designed by the Los Angeles firm of Siegel Diamond Architecture, incorporates Edison Elementary School, a neighborhood library shared by the school and the public, a public plaza, community center, multi-purpose gymnasium, baseball diamond, soccer field and a children's play area. The courtyard between the school, the library and the community center frames an old California oak tree that was carefully preserved and protected as the buildings grew around it.

The project was designed to reflect the Pacific Park neighborhood's Armenian and Hispanic heritage. In the Library, the story theater arches into a form reminiscent of Armenian churches, while the exterior surfaces of the buildings bear relief elements drawn from the architecture of both groups, and the Plaza is named in honor of Caesar Chavez.



◆ **BRAND LIBRARY & ART CENTER**

**1601 WEST MOUNTAIN STREET
1904**

El Miradero ("The Lookout Point") was originally the home of Leslie Combs Brand, the "Father of Glendale," and his wife Mary Louise.

Brand commissioned his brother-in-law, Nathaniel Dryden, to design a home inspired by the East Indian Pavilion at the Chicago Columbian Exhibition of 1893. But, in the hands of the eclectic Dryden, who had no formal architectural education, the final exterior design displayed a strong Hispano-Moorish influence, with pointed arches and small, minaret-like towers. The floor plan echoes the California Mission revival style, with the rooms wrapped around a central patio, while the interiors are finished with typical Victorian detailing.

Brand died in 1925 and bequeathed El Miradero and the surrounding land to the

City. His will stipulated that upon his wife's death the property be used exclusively as a public park and library. Mrs. Brand died in 1945, and in 1956 El Miradero was officially opened to the public as Brand Library. A 1969 addition, designed by the Glendale firm of Charles Walton Associates, AIA provided much-needed space for art exhibitions, lectures, concerts and art and craft studios. El Miradero is listed on the Glendale Register of Historic Resources.



◆ **GRANDVIEW LIBRARY**

**1535 FIFTH STREET
1963**

Originally called Northbranch, Grandview Library first opened temporarily in 1923 at what is now Jefferson School; a permanent library was built on Ruberta in 1926. By the end of the 1950s, the old library's small size and security problems made it unsuitable for the growing community, and prominent

Glendale architect Graham Latta was commissioned to design a new, modern Grandview branch.

Completed in October of 1963, Latta's design is a fine and remarkably intact example of mid-20th century American civic architecture. Its horizontal bands of windows, overhanging flat roof and decorative brickwork are typical features of late International style Modernism. The open interior features a bright and spacious reading room with original built-in display shelves and a separate children's section.

Designed to hold 20,000 books, Grandview now squeezes in 41,000. Like its predecessor, the library has struggled to keep pace with the growth of the community and now faces an uncertain future.

PHOTOS: Top 1967, Bottom 1950



LIBRARY TOUR

◆ Stop with Guided Tour

Central Library
222 East Harvard Street

Grandview Branch
1535 5th Street

Brand Library
1601 West Mountain

◆ Drive by

Pacific Park Branch
501 South Pacific Avenue

Casa Verdugo Branch
1151 North Brand

Other Branch Libraries

Library Connection @ Adams Square
1100 East Chevy Chase Drive

Chevy Chase Branch
3301 East Chevy Chase Drive

Montrose-Crescenta Branch
2465 Honolulu Avenue
Montrose

